



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

### THE MACE OF THE VIRGINIA HOUSE OF BURGESSES.

---

Miss Heth of Washington, D. C., possesses the principal portion of the mace of the House of Burgesses of Virginia. It was inherited by her from her kinsman, Col. William Heth of the Virginia Continental Line, who purchased it and made this part into a large drinking cup. It is a handsome piece of silver work and bears the colonial arms of Virginia with the mottoes: *En dat Virginia Quartam* and *Virtute et labore florent Respublicae*. There is a description in the *Dinwiddie Papers*, I, xiy, xv. But little, until recently, was known of the history of the mace. An examination of the records made for Miss Heth by Miss Alice Blair of this city (who has kindly furnished us with copies of her notes), resulted in a considerable addition to what has been known in regard to the mace.

The earliest mention of a mace is in an order of the English Privy Council, March 14, 1679, that one should be sent to Virginia. (*Cal. State Papers Colonial*, 1677-80, p. 341.) It is not certain that this was intended for the House of Burgesses. The next notice, which has been observed, is in the Journal of the House of Burgesses (Virginia State Library edition) May 6, 1742. After describing the election of a Speaker and his presentation to the governor, the Journal continues "and being returned, and the Mace laid on the Table, Mr. Speaker reported," &c. The mace appears from later journals to have been in constant use up to the end of the royal government. It would also appear that it was used in the House of Delegates for some years after the organization of State Government.

The first notice of the mace, after 1776, is contained in the the following resolution of the House of Delegates:

"HOUSE OF DELEGATES, 1792-1793.

December 10th, 1792.

A motion was made that the House do come to the following resolution:

*Whereas*, It is inconsistent with the principles of a republican government, that any badge or appendage of Kingly pomp should remain therein.

*Resolved*, Therefore, that the Executive be requested to procure two maces for the use of the Senate and the House of Delegates, to be made in such manner as they shall direct out of the materials of the one at present used."

"HOUSE OF DELEGATES, 1792.

December 13.

The Senate passed the bills Requesting the Executive to procure maces for the use of the Senate and the House of Delegates."

No action seems to have been taken at this time; but in 1794 the mace was actually sold under the following resolution:

"HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

November 17, 1794.

*Resolved*, That the Executive be requested to sell the Mace now used by this house and that the proceeds of the sale be deposited in the public Treasury."

A receipt shows that the first purchaser of the mace were two Richmond merchants, named Richardson. An entry in the Council Journal concludes the matter:

"COUNCIL JOURNAL, 1793-1795.

December 3rd, 1794.

The executive in compliance with a resolution of the General Assembly having sold the mace, and the purchase money to the amount of one hundred and one Dollars having been paid into the treasury. It is ordered that the receipts therefor be filed in this office."